

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
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AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUNICH 00209

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, GW
SUBJECT: CSU BUNDESTAG DEPUTIES HOLD RETREAT AT
WILDBAD-KREUTH

1. THE 53 CSU BUNDESTAG DEPUTIES ARE PARTICIPATING IN
TWO-DAY RETREAT AT WILDBAD-KREUTH JANUARY 12-14. THEY
ARE TO DISCUSS THE FINANCING OF SOCIAL BENEFITS,
TERRORISM, UNEMPLOYMENT, THE RECENTLY ENACTED FEDERAL
LAW ON CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR STATUS AND THE POLITICAL
STRATEGY TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE CDU/CSU OPPOSITION.

2. BECAUSE A MAJORITY OF THE 53 CSU DEPUTIES WHO MET
IN KREUTH IN NOVEMBER 1976 VOTED TO ESTABLISH A SEPARATE
CSU "FRAKTION" (PARTY CAUCUS) IN THE BUNDESTAG, THERE
HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE PRESS SPECULATION ABOUT A
"SECOND KREUTH."

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3. CONGEN UNDERSTANDS THERE IS CONSIDERABLE AND GROWING
SENTIMENT AMONG CSU BUNDESTAG DEPUTIES IN FAVOR OF THE
CREATION OF A SEPARATE CSU "FRAKTION" IN BUNDESTAG. IN
CONGEN'S JUDGMENT, HOWEVER, CSU CHAIRMAN STRAUSS IS NOT
REPEAT NOT INTERESTED IN SEEING THE CSU DEPUTIES TAKE
SUCH A DECISION AT THIS TIME. STRAUSS PRESUMABLY WOULD
NOT REPEAT NOT WANT TO TIRGGER SERIOUS INTERNAL

DEBATE WITHIN CSU SEVEN WEEKS BEFORE THE BAVARIAN
MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS AND NINE MONTHS BEFORE THE BAVARIAN
LANDTAG ELECTIONS.

4. WHILE

A STRONG LEADER, STRAUSS IS NO REPEAT NO PARTY
DICTATOR. ALTHOUGH IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE CSU DEPUTIES
WILL AGAIN VOTE FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A SEPARATE "FRAKTION,"
THIS TIME OVER STRAUSS' OBJECTIONS, CONGEN CONSIDERS THIS
UNLIKELY.

5. CONGEN BELIEVES THAT STRAUSS WILL ATTEMPT TO GET CSU
BUNDESTAG DEPUTIES TO ENDORSE HIS CONCEPT OF A PROPER
STRATEGY FOR CDU/CSU OPPOSITION. HE WOULD THEN ATTEMPT
TO IMPOSE THIS STRATEGY ON THE CDU VIA THE JOINT
STRATEGY COMMISSION.

6. IT WOULD NEVERTHELESS BE A MISTAKE IN CONGEN'S VIEW
TO ASSUME THAT ESTABLISHMENT OF A SEPARATE CSU "FRAKTION"
IN BUNDESTAG IS DEAD LETTER. DEPENDING ON OUTCOME OF THIS
YEAR'S LANDTAG ELECTIONS AND NEGOTIATIONS IN CDU/CSU
JOINT STRATEGY COMMISSION, STRAUSS MIGHT WISH IN
LATE 1978 OR EARLY 1979 TO ENCOURAGE CSU BUNDESTAG
DEPUTIES TO TAKE A DECISION CALLING FOR SEPARATE "FRAKTION"
AS A PRELUDE TO CSU EFFORT TO ESTABLISH CANDIDATE LISTS
IN SELECTED LAENDER OUTSIDE BAVARIA FOR 1980 BUNDESTAG
ELECTION. BETTS
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